

Bessey Today

News and information from the Nebraska and
Samuel R. McKelvie National Forests

I'm a little late getting this out. Since my last article, much has happened here in the Sandhills. Summer has come and gone and there is even snow on the ground as I write this. With that change in seasons, comes a new year for us here on the Nebraska National Forest.

Back in September, I was asked to provide our Supervisor's Office in Chadron with a list of noteworthy projects that we accomplished over the last year on the Bessey Ranger District. While initially, I wasn't all that excited about turning in another report, by the time I finished it, I was filled with pride from all the great things that the folks here completed.

Some of the bigger projects that I identified in the report included the work of our fire crew. All told these folks treated over 2000 acres of eastern red cedar, repaired several miles of our sand roads, and traveled across six western states fighting wildfires. If there's a group that's more efficient, safe and productive in the Forest Service, I haven't seen it!

Some of the other projects we accomplished this year included the initiation of a volunteer trail ranger program in conjunction with the Halsey Trails Club. We also completed the analysis on our Travel Management Review project and look implement that decision, opening about 30 miles of existing roads on the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest and providing additional motorized access to areas of the Bessey Division near Halsey.

With the beginning of the new year for us, we are also working hard to prioritize our work. One of the priority projects that we will be working on this year is the rehabilitation of our arboretum. With the help of Pam Reed from south of Thedford, we will be adding new posts labeling the many trees in our picnic area and a new self-guided tour book that will guide our visitors on a handicap accessible route around the Bessey Recreation Complex. Other things we'll be working on include more road repairs, maintenance of our many wildlife exclosures including the Lord Lakes Complex at the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, and the production of our new Motor Vehicle Use Map.

I'm really excited about what we have done and what we are going to work on this year. I only hit the highlights of what we have done and are planning. If you'd like to see more of what we're doing to "care for the land and serve people," please contact us at 308-533-2257 or stop by the office next time you're on Highway 2!

Tim Buskirk
District Ranger